

White Bridge Primary School
Confidence, Courage, Challenge, Care



GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER
Summer 2017

Dear Parents

The past year has been an extremely busy one for our school community.

You will have seen the new extension gradually going up since January 2017 and this is on track to be completed and in use by Easter 2018. Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the Governing Board has requested confirmation from the builders that the fire safety systems and procedures of the new build will comply with current regulations. We will also review the build specification to ensure the safety of the pupils at the school, both now and in the future.

Preliminary SATs results for Year 6 pupils are excellent and a huge improvement on last year. We are grateful to the staff for their hard work and hope that the pupils are extremely proud of their achievements. We wish them well as they continue their education in Secondary School.

You may be aware that it has been part of the Government's education policy for some years to see all schools convert to become academies. Whilst the deadline for all schools to convert is uncertain, it is still very much on the Government's agenda. Governors have a duty to evaluate all options for White Bridge to ensure the progress of pupils now and in the future and have, therefore, begun the process of considering the implications of conversion for White Bridge. Further communications will be forthcoming when there is definitive news to share.

We currently have a number of vacancies on the governing board and would be happy to discuss these further. Please do get in touch via the School office (tel: 020 8508 8624 or by email at admin@whitebridge.essex.sch.uk) if you are interested in the work of the governing board and would like to find out more about what being a governor involves and how you can positively contribute to the life of the school.

On behalf of all of the Governors, I wish you a very happy and refreshing summer holiday!

Regards
Nicola Morriss
Chair of Governors



Update on the Work of the Governing Body this Year (2016/17):

- All Governors have now undertaken induction training, safeguarding training, and further training in relation to their link roles within the school.
- Governor monitoring of the school has increased this year, in particular in relation to the changes in the teaching and assessment of English writing following last year's SATs results, SEND provision, PE provision and Early Years.
- The School has had a number of visits from the Local Authority to review the teaching and assessment of writing. Recommendations included providing additional challenge for more able pupils – this will be actioned next year and monitored by the governors.
- Termly data of pupil's progress and attainment in all years has been provided to governors this year. Governors will continue to ask for this data from the school.
- A new Annual Plan has been produced to allow better planning and monitoring of the work of governors.

Planned Work of the Governing Board Next Year (2017/18):

- Changes implemented in relation to English writing have had a big impact on progress and attainment of pupils across the board (as evidenced in the Year 6 SATs results) and this will be further embedded in Year 6 and built upon in other year groups. Governors will continue to monitor this.
- Reviewing the teaching of maths, especially in relation to the effect of non-setting in Years 3-5 and the ensuring that all pupils achieve expected levels
- Monitoring the teaching of more able pupils to ensure that they are adequately challenged.
- Continued monitoring of SEND provision.
- Monitoring changes to the Early Years outdoor area to provide a more stimulating environment and allow greater use within the curriculum.
- Considering the implications of conversion to an academy as part of a multi-academy trust.
- Succession planning.
- Implement an annual survey of parents, staff and pupils to enable better feedback and communication.
- Produce and implement an annual plan for the review of policies.
- Review behaviour of pupils in conjunction with reviewing the new anti-bullying initiative, Toot Toot (many thanks to the parents who completed the survey sent via Parentmail earlier this year).

